

REMARKS

The enclosed is responsive to the Office Action mailed on March 21, 2008. At the time the Examiner mailed the Office Action claims 1-3, 5-16, 18, 19, 22-25, 45, 46, 52, and 221-241 were pending. By way of the present response Applicant has amended claims 1-3, 10, 14-16, 18-19, 22, 24, 45-46, 221, 225, 227-228, 232, 234-236, and 238 in order to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. Claims 5-6, 222, 226, 233, and 237 have been canceled. New claims 242-249 have been added. As such, claims 1-3, 7-16, 18, 19, 22-25, 45, 46, 52, 221, 223-225, 227-232, 234-236, and 238-249 are now pending. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application and the allowance of all claims now presented.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 112

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-3, 5-16, 18, 19, 22-25, 45, 46, 52, and 221-241 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. In particular, the Examiner states that "it is not clear what structure is required by the text introduced by "wherein" in the independent claims."

Claims 1 and 45 been amended to remove the text introduced by the phrase "wherein." Claim 45 has been amended to be in independent form. Dependent claims 2-3, 10, 14-16, 18-19, 22, 24, 46, 221, 225, 227-228, 232, 234-236, and 238 have been amended to conform the amendments of currently amended independent claims 1 and 45.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that currently pending claims 1-3, 7-16, 18, 19, 22-25, 45, 46, 52, 221, 223-225, 227-232, 234-236, and 238-241 comply with the formalities of 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, and requests the withdrawal of the rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102/103

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-3, 5, 7-9, 19, 22-25, 45, 224-226, 229-231, 235-237, and 239-241 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by *Lorimer* (US Patent No. 6,460,552). The Examiner has rejected claims 16 and 18 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Lorimer* in view of *Busnaina* and JP 05-013396. The Examiner has rejected claims 221-223, 227, 232-234, and 238 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Lorimer* in view of *Puskas* (US Patent No. 6,313,565), *Hyamizu* (US 20020157685) and *Ferrell* (US Patent No. 6,036,785).

Independent claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of previously dependent 6 and all intervening claims. Independent claim 45 has been amended to include the limitations of previously presented claim 1 and the limitation “the wafer bracket is rotatable relative to the platter” from previously presented claim 46. It is Applicant’s understanding that the prior art of record fails to disclose or suggest the limitation of the bracket being rotatable relative to the platter.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the withdrawal of the rejections of the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) and 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating that claims 6, 10-12, 14, 15, 46, 52, and 228 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Specifically the Examiner indicates the reasons for allowable subject matter as: “The prior art fails to teach or suggest to modify the apparatus of *Lorimer* to make the bracket rotatable relative to the platter.”

Applicant has amended independent claim 1 to include the limitations of previously presented dependent claim 6 and intervening claim 5. Applicant has amended independent claim 45 to include the limitations of previously presented claim 1 and the limitation “the

wafer bracket is rotatable relative to the platter” from previously presented claim 46.

Dependent claims 2-3, 10, 14-16, 18-19, 22, 24, 46, 221, 225, 227-228, 232, 234-236, and 238 have been amended to conform the amendments of currently amended independent claims 1 and 45.

In view of these amendments, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-3, 7-16, 18, 19, 22-25, 45, 46, 52, 221, 223-225, 227-232, 234-236, and 238-241 are now in condition for allowance, and requests allowance of said claims.

New Claims

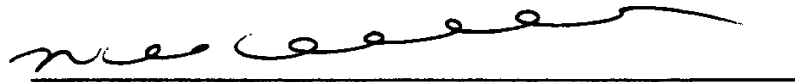
New claims 242-249 include the allowable subject matter of the bracket being rotatable relative to the platter. Specifically new claims 242-249 claim an apparatus for wet processing a substrate comprising a platter, one or more acoustic wave transducers mounted on the platter backside, a bracket for positioning a substrate over the platter, the bracket being rotatable relative to the platter, a first liquid dispenser for flowing a first liquid between the platter and substrate, and a second liquid dispenser above the platter for flowing a processing liquid from the second liquid dispenser and onto the substrate. It is Applicant's understanding that these limitations are not taught by the prior art of record.

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a)(3), applicant(s) hereby request and authorize the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office to (1) treat any concurrent or future reply that requires a petition for extension of time as incorporating a petition for extension of time for the appropriate length of time and (2) charge all required fees, including extension of time fees and fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17, to Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,

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